

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

## WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

Number: WIAB05-56

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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: RURAL SIMULATION CENTER GRANT OPPORTUNITY

This information bulletin transmits documents relating to the referenced grant opportunity:

- The attached paper entitled **NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR RURAL NURSING CLINICAL SIMULATION CENTER GRANTS**;
- Attachment 1 to the above paper entitled **COUNTIES ELIGIBLE FOR RURAL NURSING CLINICAL SIMULATION CENTER GRANTS**; and
- Attachment 2 to the above paper entitled **SUMMARY OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR RURAL NURSING CLINICAL SIMULATION CENTER GRANTS**.

In summary, these documents describe the process whereby \$750,000 of State of California general revenue funds will be distributed to approximately three coalitions of rural nursing training facilities and health care providers to defray the cost of setting up clinical simulation centers. The first step in the process will be the formation of coalitions.

We solicit the assistance of the workforce investment system to inform potential coalition partners of this funding opportunity and process. We will seek other methods to directly inform nursing education institutions, hospitals, first responders and other potential coalition partners.

If you have any questions, please contact your [Regional Advisor](#) at (916) 654-7799.

/S/ BOB HERMSMEIER  
Chief  
Workforce Investment Division

Attachment

## **NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR RURAL NURSING CLINICAL SIMULATION CENTER GRANTS**

### **Background**

This bulletin announces an opportunity to apply for California rural nursing clinical simulation center grants.

The Workforce Investment Division of the Employment Development Department (EDD), in cooperation with the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN), will make at least three grants in rural areas of California to help defray the cost of establishing clinical simulation centers. State funds may be used for simulation manikins, activities to integrate the manikins into nursing education curricula, and the cost of related faculty and technician staffing, up to a maximum of \$250,000 per grant. State funds may not be used for facilities or infrastructure to house the equipment. These grant funds must be matched on a one-to-one basis by local resources.

Grants will be made to nursing education entities (community colleges, State universities, University of California campuses, and private colleges/universities) as lead agencies for coalitions of simulation equipment users (including colleges, universities, hospitals, and first responders).

Entities interested in applying for a grant will have until March 31, 2006, to form and demonstrate effective coalitions of proposed user agencies. The resulting coalitions will be assessed by EDD and BRN to determine which will be eligible to submit a final application for funding by mid-May 2006. The basis for judging eligibility to submit a final application will be a demonstrated need for a rural simulation center and the coalition's commitment, inclusiveness, and readiness to implement a viable simulation center which will be used effectively to expand the number of pre-licensure nursing education opportunities in the local area and to serve other health care training needs in the community. The EDD and BRN expect to select awardees by May 31, 2006. Grants will run from June 2006 through December 2007.

Applications will be considered from coalitions in rural counties of California, which are defined as those with population of less than 500,000. A list of these counties is attached.

Also attached is a summary discussion of project considerations related to this grant opportunity.

The grant application process will include three steps:

1. Submission of a letter indicating intent to apply by February 3, 2006.
2. Submission of a coalition-readiness statement by March 31, 2006.

3. A business-case proposal, submitted by mid-May 2006, from coalitions determined by the State to be most ready to implement a clinical simulation center. These proposals will demonstrate how the grant funds will be used effectively to expand nursing education capacity.

### **Step 1: Intent to Apply**

To be considered for this grant opportunity, the nursing education entity that will serve as the grant recipient for the coalition must submit a letter of intent to apply for these grants. The letter must be signed at the nursing education program director level or above. These letters must be less than two typed pages and address the following:

1. Identification of the lead agency (potential grant recipient) for the coalition.
2. Description of the lead agency's experience in managing projects.
3. Description of the region's need for a simulation center.
4. Identification of potential coalition members.
5. Identification of the potential geographic area to be served.
6. Description of current simulation equipment availability and use in the area to be served.

Letters of intent to apply must be received by or before 5 p.m. on February 3, 2006. They should be addressed to:

By mail:

Attn: Steve Saxton  
Workforce Investment Division, MIC 50  
Employment Development Department  
P.O. Box 826880  
Sacramento, CA 94280-0001

By courier:

Attn: Steve Saxton  
Workforce Investment Division  
Employment Development Department  
722 Capitol Mall, Room 1077  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Step 2: Coalition Statement of Readiness**

Statements of readiness must be received by March 31, 2006. They must be signed at the nursing education program director level or above. These statements must address the following:

1. Identification of the agency that will be the grant recipient for the coalition.

2. Description of the lead agency's experience in managing projects, programs and budgets.
3. Identification of the coalition members.
4. Identification of the rural geographic area to be served.
5. Identification of any nursing education programs in the area to be served that will not be part of the coalition, and explanation as to why.
6. Description of how the use of the simulation center will be coordinated and optimized.
7. Description of how the simulation center will be integrated into the nursing education curriculum.
8. Description of how existing simulation equipment will be integrated with the coalition efforts.
9. Availability of space and resources for premises modification at no cost to the project.
10. Ability to match State grant funds on a one-to-one basis (cash and/or in-kind).
11. Ability to expand the number of nursing education opportunities in the local area if a simulation grant is provided.
12. Description of existing relationships/partnerships with hospitals and nursing schools related to providing educational opportunities for students. Examples: Plans for clinical simulation, funding of faculty by hospital; on-site nursing classes and/or skills labs on hospital property.
13. Willingness to work with other coalitions in the State to standardize processes related to simulation training, including scenarios, equipment, training, program, and curriculum redesign.
14. Willingness to serve on a Statewide simulation committee, which includes periodic full day meetings, conference calls, and response to emails periodically.
15. Commitment to communicating efforts and progress throughout the coalition.
16. Willingness to expand proposed program/lab to include other entities beyond the existing relationships.

Statements of coalition readiness may not exceed 15 pages in length, and must be received by or before 5 p.m. on March 31, 2006. These materials should be addressed to:

By mail:

Attn: Steve Saxton  
Workforce Investment Division, MIC 50  
Employment Development Department  
P.O. Box 826880  
Sacramento, CA 94280-0001

By courier:

Attn: Steve Saxton  
Workforce Investment Division  
Employment Development Department  
722 Capitol Mall, Room 1077  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Accompanying the statement of readiness, each coalition partner must submit a separate letter that describes their coalition role and their commitment to coalition success.

### **Step 3: Business-Case Proposal**

Only coalitions that have been determined by the State to be most ready for implementation will be invited to submit a business-case proposal. Specifications for these proposals will be shared in early February with coalitions that submit an intent to apply.

### **Potential Applicant Questions**

Questions about this grant opportunity may be directed to the following e-mail address: [nursingsimsfp@edd.ca.gov](mailto:nursingsimsfp@edd.ca.gov). Answers to questions received will be posted to [www.edd.ca.gov/wiarep/wiaspind.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/wiarep/wiaspind.htm), on an ongoing basis.

### **Attachments**

- Counties Eligible for Rural Nursing Clinical Simulation Center Grants
- Project Considerations

## COUNTIES ELIGIBLE FOR RURAL NURSING CLINICAL SIMULATION CENTER GRANTS

Alpine County	Monterey County
Amador County	Napa County
Butte County	Nevada County
Calaveras County	Plumas County
Colusa County	San Luis Obispo County
Del Norte County	Santa Barbara County
Glenn County	Santa Cruz County
Humboldt County	Shasta County
Imperial County	Sierra County
Inyo County	Siskiyou County
Kings County	Solano County
Lake County	Sonoma County
Lassen County	Stanislaus County
Madera County	Sutter County
Mariposa County	Tehama County
Mendocino County	Trinity County
Merced County	Tulare County
Modoc County	Tuolumne County
Mono County	Yuba County

## **SUMMARY OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR RURAL NURSING CLINICAL SIMULATION CENTER GRANTS**

### **BACKGROUND**

One major impediment to expanding registered nurse education is the limited access to live-patient clinical education situations in hospitals and other health care facilities. This problem is especially acute in rural communities of California. As nursing programs expand, more students will need more clinical time with live patients. Clinical simulation facilities can address this barrier. Simulation is a nursing education methodology that is designed to provide learning exercises that closely mimic real life practical situations, utilizing both low and high-tech manikins, skill task and virtual reality trainers, and computer-based simulators and scenarios. Simulation allows schools and hospitals to provide training that is not readily available or is not safe for beginning practitioners. Effective use of simulation also results in students who are better prepared to make the best use of limited live-patient clinical experience.

The California legislature has allocated \$750,000 for use in funding simulation centers in rural areas of the state. The Workforce Investment Division (WID) of the Employment Development Department (EDD) will administer these funds on behalf of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, in close cooperation with the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN).

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of these grants is to expand Registered Nursing (RN) education capacity by providing alternative clinical education opportunities through the use of human patient simulation equipment. The intent of the rural focus of the State's funding of simulation centers is to demonstrate the benefits of high-tech simulation technology in nursing education in areas of low population density. An ancillary benefit will be that organizations will gain experience in applying for such funding which should assist them when preparing future funding requests.

### **FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS**

- Proposals must represent a partnership of multiple schools, including both two-year and four-year nursing programs, hospitals, first responders, and other community partners in a geographic region.
- Proposals must demonstrate a strong coalition among the partners that is capable of coordinating efforts and optimizing the use of the center.
- Proposals will be considered from rural areas as defined below.

- To be competitive, proposals must make a business case showing that they are able to increase RN education capacity as a result of the center and establish benefits for the community health system.
- Successful proposals will be able to match grant funds with other resources to maximize the benefits to the community.
- Proposals must demonstrate a strong public/private partnership. Such partnerships would ideally defray some of the costs of the proposed center.
- Proposals must demonstrate sustainability through user fees or other creative means.
- Proposals will be considered for stationary and mobile simulation centers.
- The centers must be available on a first-priority basis for pre-licensure RN education but may also be used for other purposes to attain funding for sustainability.
- Proposals must demonstrate how use of simulation equipment will be reflected in the classroom curriculum.
- Proposals must demonstrate a viable plan for faculty development around the use of simulation equipment in the curriculum.
- Centers must have a full-time coordinator.
- Centers must have technician capability to ensure effective use.
- Proposals must demonstrate that partners will make effective use of the centers.
- Space must be available since the funding will not include the cost of space.
- The school partners must be willing to coordinate and articulate their curricula with the availability of simulation equipment to ensure maximum benefit for students.
- Proposals must agree to collaborate and share staff training and development products and experiences with other funded sites.

## **PROCESS**

The WID will issue an Solicitation for Proposal entitled Rural Nursing Education Simulation Center Grants Solicitation. Eligible applicants will be limited to pre-licensure nursing education providers (including community colleges, State universities, and private colleges). Potential applicants will be allowed a period of approximately three months to form effective partnerships with appropriate education and healthcare organizations. At the end of this formation period, applicants will have the opportunity to demonstrate via a Statement of Readiness that their consortium is committed to, and capable of, effectively using a simulation center. The EDD and BRN will conduct an assessment and invite applicants that have demonstrated readiness to submit business-case proposals for funding.



The EDD and BRN will convene a panel of qualified experts representing educators, employers, and nurses to select the best proposals and recommend funding.

Proposals will be reviewed competitively and at least three will be selected for funding at up to \$250,000 each.

## **RURAL AREAS TO BE SERVED**

To be eligible for funding, projects must primarily serve the nursing education needs in at least one of the following counties:

Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Yuba.

## **TIMELINE**

- Announcement of Funding Opportunity and Application Process – December 2005
- Local Coalitions File Intent to Apply – February 2006
- Local Coalitions Formed – January through March 2006
- Statements of Readiness Filed – March 2006
- Assessment of Coalition Readiness – April 2006
- Business Case Proposals Due – May 2006
- Awards Announcement – May 2006
- Project Subgrants Finalized – June 2006
- Projects Operational – June 2006 through December 2007
- End of Project Assessment – December 2007